

### ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to methods for expressing nucleic acid sequences in prokaryotic host cells, where at least one DNA construct which is capable of episomal replication in ~~said~~ a host cell[[s]] and which comprises a nucleic acid sequence to be expressed under the transcriptional control of an L-rhamnose-inducible promoter, where ~~said~~ the promoter is heterologous with regard to ~~said~~ the nucleic acid sequence, is introduced into ~~said~~ the host cell[[s]] and the expression of ~~said~~ the nucleic acid sequence is induced by addition of L-rhamnose, wherein the prokaryotic host cell is at least deficient with regard to an L-rhamnose isomerase.